

# **Measures adopted by the Catalan Government to face the COVID-19 pandemic**

**Updated: 2/4/2020**



**Generalitat de Catalunya**  
Government  
of Catalonia

# Content

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01.	Main aspects.....	3
02.	Department of Health.....	4
03.	Department of Economy and Finance .....	6
04.	Department of Enterprise (Business) and Knowledge .....	8
05.	Department of Labour, Social Affairs and Family .....	9
06.	Department of Digital Policy and Public Administration .....	12
07.	Department of Home Affairs .....	14
08.	Department of Territory and Sustainability .....	16
09.	Department of Justice .....	17
10.	Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food....	18
11.	Department of Foreign Affairs.....	20
12.	Department of Culture .....	21
13.	Secretariat of Sports .....	22
14.	Catalan Agency for Consumers.....	23
15.	Catalan Women's Institute.....	24
16.	Catalan Audio-visual Council .....	25

# 01. Main aspects

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Since the beginning of the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Catalonia has adopted a series of measures trying to reduce the effect of the crisis on Health, economy and social aspects. Throughout the government's departments, there has been an effort to allow flexibility and reduce red tape for many administrative procedures.

Specific measures can be found online at the following address: [General Information to mitigate the effects of the coronavirus crisis](#).

The website updates regularly with all the information concerning the pandemic in Catalonia.

Twice a day the President, Vice-president, and Minister for Health, Home Affairs and Presidency hold meetings to evaluate the situation and propose measures to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.



## 02. Department of Health

### Stop COVID-19 APP

On March 18 the Catalan Government launched an App intending to control and detect new coronavirus cases in Catalonia. A daily (or more) monitoring will be held to every patient registered with symptoms. Thus, it will enable both patients to have a personalized answer based on their symptoms and have real-time data about the evolution and incidence of the illness in the Catalan territory. If needed, medical emergency service can also be activated according to the situation of the user. [More information.](#)

### Real-time data centre

The Department of Health and its agency AQuAS released a website gathering all the information about the pandemic situation in Catalonia including a dashboard and a heat map. This allows public decision-makers and individuals to access reliable information to track the situation on real time. [More information.](#) Furthermore, open data from all the COVID-19 tests has been made available to the public.



### Temporal hospitals set up at the 'Fira de Barcelona' and other locations

To take care of stable coronavirus patients and prevent the collapse of hospitals, the Health Department has set up several hospitals that can increase bed capacity if needed.

One of the spaces will be the CEM Olímpics Vall d'Hebron, as an extension of the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital that can accommodate up to 132 patients.



### Healthcare professionals are being reincorporated at hospitals and tested

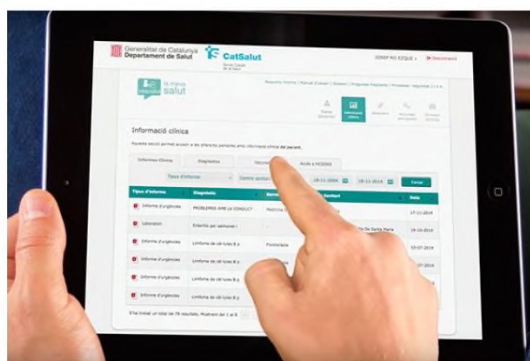
Since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, healthcare professionals have been reincorporated into the health system, 85 in Igualada Hospital, situated in "la Conca d'Òdena" a COVID-19 hotspot in Catalonia. From Wednesday March 25, all professionals working at Igualada Hospital, have been tested for coronavirus. In addition, since March 11, this center has seen 42 direct hires of new healthcare professionals to strengthen the care in "la Conca



d'Òdena" region and 180 beds have been allocated from the General Hospital of Catalonia specifically for patients in Igualada or "la Conca". [More information.](#)

### 'My health'

An extraordinary online form was made available in order for citizens to have easier access to their files. This used to be a procedure that had to be done in person but can now be made online in order to ensure that people don't need to go to a health centre in the context of the health emergency caused by the coronavirus. This measure was created with the intention to avoid the collapse of health centres. [More information.](#)



### Hotels host mild patients with COVID-19

Hotel beds have been made available for Hospitals to allocate patients who have symptoms but cannot isolate at their homes due to the difficulties of their environment. Healthcare professionals and social health workers will assist the patients, who will have primary care support in each area.



### Fast track validation of 3D printed ventilators

As ventilators are a critical device to assist some of the patients with COVID-19, initiatives helping to increase the capacity of use of this device are highly valuable. The Department of Health is currently assisting the initiatives such as 3D printed ventilators in the validation process at the regulatory agencies with the expectation of enabling the mass production and use in the coming days, allowing a response to an expected peak of need of these devices.

### Clinical trial

The Department of Health is co-leading a clinical trial study, which started on March 16 2020, with the aim of evaluating the effectiveness of a preventive strategy to reduce transmission and, therefore, the incidence of COVID-19 in the population during the outbreak by SARS-CoV-2 in Catalonia.

## 03. Department of Economy and Finance

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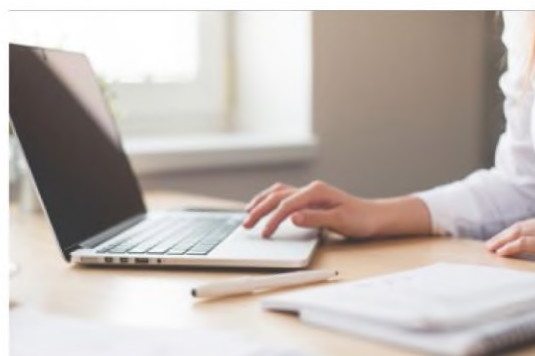
### Tax measures

- Moratorium on the deadlines for the payment and self-settlement of some taxes (namely Catalan government's own taxes and Spanish taxes "ceded" to regional governments) until the end of the state of alarm.
- Suspension and interruption of deadlines for management, inspection and collection procedures.
- Moratorium on payment until October of the tax on stays in tourism establishments, which companies were supposed to pay in April.
- Elimination of taxes related to individual waste management and a regulation for reducing by 50% the tax on the industrial and construction waste will be put in place.
- Reduction by 50% of the water rate for domestic users and economic activities (from April 1 until May 31). Vulnerable families, or those who are in this situation as a result of coronavirus, will be able to apply for social benefits and pay nothing for this concept. [More information.](#)

### Financial assistance for self-employed workers

€7.5M will be allocated to self-employed workers economically affected by the coronavirus. The aid can be up to 2.000 euros for self-employed workers who prove a drastic and involuntary reduction

of their turnover. They need to prove they are registered in activities that health authorities have decreed need close and do not have other sources of income. It plans to benefit about 4.500 self-employed workers. [More information.](#)



### Ensure payment of public procurement

To ensure that companies working for the Catalan Government maintain their employment even though they cannot provide the service effectively due to the coronavirus crisis, the Catalan Government will pay wages and expenses insurance policies to workers. This includes cleaning contracts, transport school and school meals, special education centres, surveillance and work and service contracts awarded by the Government of Catalonia and its Public Sector



### **Flexibilization of administrative procedures**

Procurement boards may meet without face-to-face attendance, while respecting the transparency required by the Law on Public Sector Contracts.

### **Liquidity line for SMEs and self-employed (bank guarantees; 750 million euros)**

The ICF ('Catalan Institute of Financing', the public financial institution owned by the Government of Catalonia) and Avalis of Catalonia guarantee 80% of the loans given by financial institutions to Catalan SMEs and self-employed workers who have liquidity problems because of the COVID-19 crisis. Companies who apply for loans under this scheme cannot lay off workers. [More information.](#)

### **Culture liquidity loans (10 million euros)**

Loans to help cultural companies affected by the COVID-19 crisis deal with liquidity constraints. [More information.](#)



### **Moratorium of rents**

Moratorium on the rents of public housing and commercial spaces administered by the Catalan Habitat Agency starting in April. Around 20.000 families will benefit.

### **Notify suspension and reduction of working hours online**

Creation of a dossier for temporary employment regulation by the COVID-19, which justifies the closures protected by legal rules as well as the closures that have been determined by other administrations, and also those that have to be closed due to lack of supplies or due to isolation by the health authority. Both suspension and reduction of the working hours can be easily done in the Generalitat's website.

## 04. Department of Enterprise (Business) and Knowledge

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### Flexibility of temporary employment regulation records

Temporary Employment Regulation Records (ERTES) caused by the Coronavirus crisis will be considered of majeure force and workers will have the right to the contributory unemployment benefit, even if the unemployed does not complete the required prior contribution requirement. [More information.](#)

### Extraordinary benefit for the cessation of activity for self-employed workers

Self-employed workers with activities suspended by the current state of alarm, or whose invoicing in the month preceding the request for the benefit, is reduced by at least 75 percent compared to the average billing for the previous semester, will be entitled to the extraordinary benefit for the cessation of activity. [More information.](#)

### Creation of 'Business Marketplace COVID-19'

Online service to connect technological and health solutions aimed at facing the coronavirus crisis. It is a supply and demand service to address the coronavirus emergency within the Catalan people. Users need to fill in a form to offer or request any business solution that can help deal with the

situation. The government will publish the offers and demands and request with the maximum agility. [More information.](#)

### Virtual desk of 'ACCIO competitiveness for Catalonia'

A measure to strengthen the channel with electronic business advice and help the creation of new services during the coronavirus crisis.

- Zero minute: aimed to reinforce the business attention system via chat to answer any business-related doubt with specialists in innovation, internationalization and financing.
- Opportunities: videoconference service to attend any business ideas or enquiries.
- On-going support by an Account manager in case of on-going personalised projects.
- Updated COVID-19 useful information for the business sector. [More information.](#)

### Flexibilitization of deadlines

Interruption of the administrative deadlines of the acts and procedures related the management of the calls for research grants and research grants of AGAUR (Agency for Management of University and Research Grants). [More information.](#)



## 05. Department of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

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### Grants for the self-employed

Launch of a grant, in the form of an economic benefit, up to 20,000 Euro for self-employed workers (individuals) who show a drastic and involuntary reduction in their billing as a result of the effects of coronavirus on its economic activity.

### Protecting children and adolescents

Project to assist children and adolescents whose parents are hospitalized or isolated by coronavirus. For children and adolescents from 3 to 18 years old, XANASCAT will open hostels, where qualified staff will attend them all day long. For children under 3 years old, a host family will be provided. [More information.](#)



### Guarantee meal services for minors who are users of the services of socio-educational intervention with meal service

Cards will be enabled for the families and for the minors who are users of the socio-educational intervention services with a meal service, through an agreement with

CaixaBank. There will be 140,000 cards for children using the dining service and 20,000 for the minors who are users of the socio-educational intervention services with a meal service. For each family, the card will be charged with the amount of the daily allowance for the total number of days that the closure lasts.

### Protecting the elderly

The department has activated the inspection of social services to intervene in cases of residences for the elderly who are at risk. More information. In addition, it has strengthened the coordination to protect the nursing homes for the elderly, disabled, and mentally ill in front of the coronavirus by generate a unique logistics circuit for the distribution of protective equipment based on their own estimated needs. An emergency pool of people registered in the Catalan Public Employment Service (SOC) with a suitable professional profile is created to join the teams of the nursing homes that need it urgently.

### Protecting the vulnerable

Relocation of 21 disabled people living in nursing residences and who have some coronavirus symptoms in Barcelona to the Casa del Mar in Barcelona where they can receive targeted care. [More information.](#)



## Protecting social workers

- Provision of masks and gloves to workers in residential care services to prevent the spread of coronavirus in nursing homes for the elderly, improve care for the affected people, and prevent staff contagion. [More information.](#)
- Extension of free psychological support service for COVID19 to social services professionals in collaboration with the Professional Association of Psychologists. [More information.](#)

## Multilanguage and audio communication

Mobilization of volunteers to translate coronavirus recommendations into 35 languages. We have recorded voice notes to reach groups that do not understand Catalan and Spanish and have difficulties in accessing to the Internet. Infographics with information and recommendations on COVID19 have also been translated into 18 languages spoken in Catalonia. [More information.](#)

### Was bedeutet häusliche Isolation?

▶ Bei der häusliche Isolation geht es darum, in **Ihrem eigenen Zuhause zu bleiben** und nicht in den öffentlichen Raum zu gehen.

▶ Der Hauptzweck von Isolierungsmaßnahmen besteht darin, **das Virus isoliert zu halten** und seine Ausbreitung zu verhindern

▶ Die Gesundheitsfachkräfte entscheiden, ob eine Person für eine häusliche Isolation



## Financial aid to people over 65 and victims of gender violence

The Government of Catalonia will

advance financial aid to pay rents to people over 65 and women victim of gender violence. [More information.](#)

## Ensure human resources are available

Exceptional organizational and human resource measures have been put in place for nursing homes and day care centres for the elderly, disabled and mentally ill, as well as at home help services. [More information.](#)



## Recommendations for workers

Published a set of recommendations of personal protection and prevention for those working in the Homeless Services ([more information](#)), volunteering and neighbourhood network groups ([more information](#)), home care professionals ([more information](#)) as well as FAQs relating to work-related questions and answers about SARS-CoV-2 (permanently updated – [more information](#)).

## Establishment of prevention measures for workers

Measures for the nursing home centres management and all the professionals dependent on the General Management



for Child and Adolescent Care in order to avoid health risks due to the spread of CV-19 or mitigate its effects in relation to the minors and young people who reside in these spaces, as well as the professionals who take care of them ([more information](#)). Measures for those in the Orientation and Support Services for families ([more information](#)). Measures and technical recommendations for essential services that are provided within the Home care Service ([more information](#)).

### **Flexibility of mobility of healthcare professionals**

Agreement between the department, employer's organizations and trade unions agree to allow flexibility in the mobility of healthcare professionals. [More information](#).

### **Recommendations for companies and workers**

From the beginning of the current crisis, there is a document of recommendations for companies and workers on actions related to situations that may occur due to the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 created by the Work Relations Council of Catalonia. The document is updated and can be reviewed depending on the evolution of the situation and according to the available information. Within the framework of the Work Relations Council, it is considered necessary to provide labour information to companies and

workers; recommend prevention measures, focusing on the environmental, organizational and individual actions, in order to minimize the risk; propose actions in the labour-relations field that have been agreed, so that Catalonia has a unified proposal of measures and actions; transfer some considerations regarding the determination of the contingency before the exposure of a worker to a biological agent that entails a period of preventive isolation; and, encourage the mobility of staff linked to the sector of care services for people in the context of the health and social emergency.

### **Speeding up unemployment benefits**

The Public Employment Service of Catalonia (SOC) offers its infrastructure to support the Spanish Government Public Employment Service (SEPE) with the aim to process unemployment benefits. People who go to the SOC will be registered without having to wait for the SEPE. [More information](#).

### **Flexibilization of deadlines and streamline of urgent needs**

Deadlines for enrolments to different grants and realignment of the channels to process the Guaranteed Minimum Income scheme of Catalonia (RGC) and ensure its availability, especially in urgent cases. [More information](#)



## 06. Department of Digital Policy and Public Administration

### Digital infrastructure

The Department and operators have agreed to extend, at no cost, data plans in order not to leave subscribers without Internet in view of the increasing demand generated by COVID-19. Furthermore, the Department has also extended the capacity of optic fibre public networks so that local operators, which in some cases have experienced a 300% increase of the demand in certain areas, can guarantee the service to citizens.

### AI-based application 'Confinapp'

Confinapp.cat is a digital tool that integrates all the services and information that the Government offers to citizens and companies during COVID-19 crisis. To improve its functioning and effectiveness, this app includes an AI-based virtual assistant that manages and solves citizens' needs and doubts during confinement times (hygiene and health measures, allowed movements, measures to support workers and companies', schooling information, etc.). Besides, this app also encourages citizens to identify social needs in current circumstances so that companies and start-ups can develop a solution and include them in the app. This will be carried out through a so-called "Hackatlon", launched with the support of Mobile World Capital Barcelona, Digital Future Society and i2Cat Foundation.

[More information.](#)



### Cybersecurity

In the light of the cyber-frauds and cyber-crimes related to the expansion of COVID-19, the Cybersecurity Agency of Catalonia has published a report ([available in Catalan](#)) alerting of the main threats and listing the key recommendations to follow. Some of them include the need to distrust non-requested mails and to search for COVID-19 information in official sites such as the Catalan Department of Health or the World Health Organisation (WHO). [More information.](#)





## Teleworking

In order to preserve the health of public workers and guarantee the provision of basic and strategic public services, the Department has enabled the possibility to continue working from home (teleworking). Besides, those public workers at risk, in charge of children or sick people and not performing basic and strategic services will be given “permission” to stay home and receive 100% of the wage. Apart from that, the Department has also launched a [webpage](#) with all the necessary information regarding teleworking (#JoTeletreballo: Q&A, cybersecurity advices, user guides for ICT devices, specific training, etc.). [More information.](#)



## Assessing the impact in the tech sector

New data of the impact of COVID19 in the tech ecosystem in Catalonia is being collected. A questionnaire has been provided to companies from the tech sector in order to assess the impact in terms of digitalisation, remote work, and business environment. The study, which is currently being carried out, is a joint initiative from CTECNO (Technology Centre) and the Department for Digital Policy and Public Administration.

## Pool of volunteers to develop administrative tasks

Public servants not dedicated to strategic tasks in the current situation, can volunteer to develop administrative tasks for the Department of Health and Department of Homeland –which are two of the Departments more affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The idea is to reinforce these departments. [More information.](#)

## 07. Department of Home Affairs

### Enforcement of confinement measures:

In order to enforce confinement measures and reduce citizens' mobility, Mossos d'Esquadra (Regional Police forces), in coordination with Local Police forces, have set up police-controls all over the territory. As a result, citizens found outside have to justify their mobility based on the exceptions laid down in the Royal Decree on the State of Alarm. As a result, during the last four weeks, the Metropolitan Area of has experienced an important reduction of mobility rates (nearly 65%).



### Self-responsible mobility certificate

In order to help police officers in their patrolling tasks and help the citizens make sure that a specific movement outside corresponds or not to an authorized activity, the Department of Home Affairs has launched a Self-responsible Mobility Certificate ([available on-line](#)). Its use is non-mandatory, it allows for standardization of procedures and can only be requested by police officers.

### Update and activation of PROCICAT (Civil Protection Plan of Catalonia)

The Action Plan for Emergencies related to Emerging High-Risk Transmissible Diseases (revised on March 4 2020) is the existing plan to manage emergencies arising from these diseases, give support to the strategy from the Directorate General of Public Health to minimize the spread of the pandemic, maintain basic services and coordinate all the actors involved in the response. ([available in Catalan](#)).

The plan includes two Emergency Phases, which foresee specific actions depending on the severity of the situation. The first phase of the plan was activated on March 12 and it implied civil protection measures (beyond sanitary ones) and actions to guarantee the provision of basic services. Some of the decisions taken so far include:

- The restriction of movements in the municipalities of Igualada, Vilanova del Camí, Santa Margarida de Montbui and Òdena due to the amount of COVID-19 cases there ([link to the decision](#)).
- The suspension activities in schools and universities ([link to the decision](#))
- The coordination, support and information to local authorities, which also play a role in civil protection measures.

From an organizational perspective, the Steering Committee of the Plan (Home



Affairs and Health Ministers) is the maximum authority responsible for, among others, evaluating the situation, deciding on the measures and communication strategy and prioritizing basic services. It receives assistance from the Advisory Council and the Technical Committee (Representatives and experts from Health Services, Police Forces, Civil Protection, Medical Emergency Services and other actors that analyse, evaluate and propose actions). The Information and Communication Office coordinates and channels all the information given to citizens and the Action Group (specialized bodies with their own resources) implements the actions and measures (health services, police forces, civil protection, logistical infrastructures, etc.).

### Information on activity restrictions

The Directorate General of Civil Protection has launched an [online site](#) giving citizens all the necessary information about how to proceed in case of COVID-19 related emergency and what is allowed or not under the current circumstances. It includes a FAQ page that is renewed twice a day.



### Gender-based violence

Bearing in mind that confinement measures can lead to an increase in the number of gender-based violence cases, Mossos d'Esquadra has doubled efforts and intensified contacts with women who had previously reported their cases to the authorities.

### Social media

Official social media accounts from the [Department of Home Affairs, Civil Protection Units](#) and [Mossos d'Esquadra](#) are constantly engaging with citizens to update them on the crisis, answer their questions and explain their actions. As an example, Mossos d'Esquadra recently shared a video in sign language to reach a broader audience.

### Awareness-raising on the use of 112 emergency number

Due to the increasing amount of COVID-19-related calls to the 112 emergency number instead of the 061 CatSalut Respon (Health Answer), the Department has elaborated a video explaining the proper use and purpose of this number so that the service does not collapse. This way, those calls requiring an emergency response (ambulance, police or firefighters) can be managed without delay. [More information.](#)



## 08. Department of Territory and Sustainability

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### Free public transport

Public transport operated by the Catalan government has been made free to ensure essential workers who are forced to travel can do so easily.



### Waste management

With reference to industrial waste, the Catalan government is mitigating the impact of coronavirus using digital tools in order to reduce the red tape involved in complying with the regulations relating to waste and also by forgoing the taxes involved in this process in its entirety. A regulation for reducing by 50% the tax on the industrial and construction waste will be put in place.



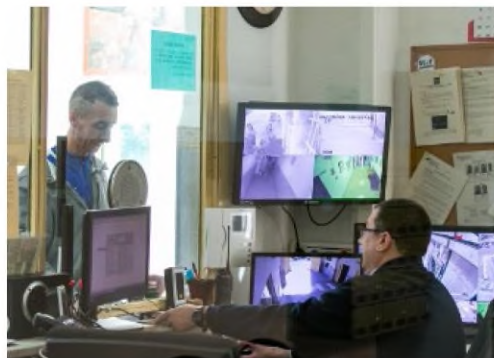


## 09. Department of Justice

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### Flexibility

To avoid increasing contagion in the facilities, more than half of the inmates qualified as grade 3 (semi-open regime) are currently serving their sentence at home. They are sleeping at home daily while being controlled by telematics means. Before COVID-19, there were 325 grade 3 inmates at home, and now during the COVID-19 there are 955.



# 10. Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food

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## Information for workers

Direct contact with fishermen of the boats, people working in the fishermen's associations and people working in the fish markets to inform about the protection measures to avoid being contaminated by COVID-19. The directorate general for fisheries and maritime affairs has provided a telephone number and an email address to address any concerns.



## Direct contact with the sector

Permanent contact with the fishery sector and aquaculture through their federations and associations to inform them about the economic support, labour law measures (Record of temporary employment regulation, in acronym in Spanish ERTOS) to the fishermen and ship-owners.

## Prioritize essential funds

Prioritize all the invitations for tender of the European Fisheries and Maritime Fund (EFFM) putting in place alternative communication mechanisms like a specific email address, a special online

form. Prioritize the administrative procedure concerning the regional regulation (for those who have suffered damages caused by the Gloria storm in January). Exceptional procedure to handle the authorisation procedures for fishery management and making available two different email addresses to exchange information with the public administration.

## Boost digitalization procedures

The Fishery and nautical school has established new procedures to renovate or dispatch titles, or licences, via on line means. The fishery and nautical school postpone their trainings. A website has been made available to reach the school.

## Guarantee food production and supply

Ensure minimum essential services keep working to guarantee production and supply (including farmers and stockbreeders, farm workers and farms, food suppliers, suppliers of handling materials, containers and packaging of products, slaughterhouses, carriers, and distribution chain wholesalers and retailers.) Allow transport of animals.





### **Extension of administrative deadlines**

The term for presentation of the Single Farm Financial Statement (Declaració Única Agrària, DUN) 2020, by means of which applications can be made for Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) grants for 2020 and other Ministry of Agriculture procedures undertaken, began on February 1 and was scheduled to end on April 30. However, given the state of alarm caused by the Coronavirus, the department is processing the extension of the term for DUN subsidies and procedures until 15 June (direct subsidies, sustainability grants, competitiveness grants, and other DUN procedures). Concerning grants for the restructuring and reconversion of vineyards, the term will be extended up to 15 calendar days after suspension of the state of alarm.

### **Reinforce continuous distance learning**

From its Agricultural Training Service, the department has strengthened the Continuous Distance Learning activity, having had to suspend face-to-face and blended coordinated by the Mas Bové Agricultural School. Special webinars have been opened to improve business practices to fight COVID-19.



### **Donation of material**

Donations have been made by the department's agricultural schools to help prevent and fight COVID-19 (gloves, face masks, cleaning and disinfecting equipment) available at schools and the agri-food laboratory, at nearby health centres.

# 11. Department of Foreign Affairs

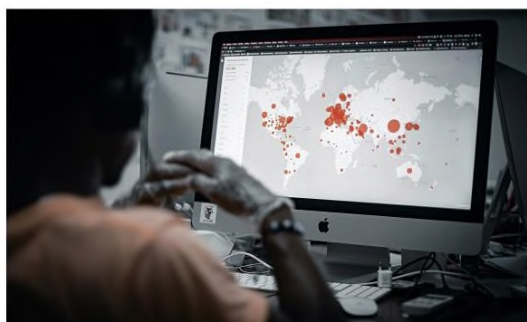
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## Identify best practices

Through its delegations abroad, the Catalan government has identified best practices abroad to learn and apply those measures, which are proving to be most effective.

## Support of Catalans abroad

The department has been coordinating and helping Catalans abroad who are attempting to return home by providing up to date information on restrictions, information on administrative obligations in different countries, among many other initiatives.



## Strengthening of the territorial cooperation instruments and networks

The Working Community of the Pyrenees, under the Presidency of the Catalan government, has created a COVID-19 working group to strengthen cross-border cooperation through its main programs. The General Assembly of the Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean agreed to modify its 2020 working plan and annual budget to identify lines of action to cope with COVID-19 consequences. The Government actively collaborates with several European and Mediterranean networks, such as the Four Motors for Europe, CRPM-CIM and Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance, to exchange good practices and deliver common analysis of the measures to be taken at EU level.



## 12. Department of Culture

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### Increase grants, budget and financial aid

Increase the percentage of all grants by 10%, to inject more liquidity into companies and beneficiary entities. Promote, both from the Catalan Institute of Cultural Enterprises and the Office of Support for Cultural Initiatives, subject to budget availability, specific lines of support to compensate for the loss of profits of companies and entities from different cultural sectors, as long as it is a direct consequence of the measures prevention and control of COVID-19 infection adopted by the competent authorities or bodies. Strengthen the line dedicated to the purchase of books by the Library Service of the Generalitat de Catalunya. Create a grant line to finance the interest generated by the lack of first year of the loans supported by the Catalan government.

### Flexibilization of deadlines and administrative procedures

Extension of deadlines for executing eligible activities (or justification thereof). Grants granted during 2020 shall not be revoked and beneficiaries of grants will not be required a minimum percentage of expenses made and justified with respect to the total cost of the activity.

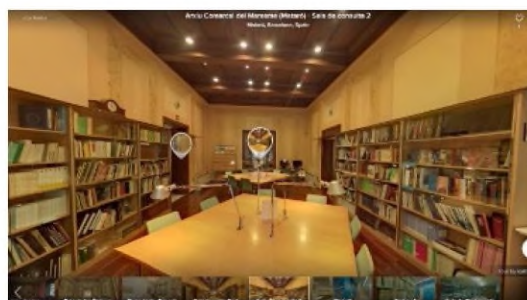
### Deliver on financial commitments

In case of cancellation of any of the

strategic markets, guarantee the contribution of Department of Culture, with the aim of avoiding additional damage to the contracted companies - with priority to Catalan companies -, mitigating the fall in hires and other negative impacts for workers of the event and for external providers;

### Increase digitalization

Increase the purchase of e-book licenses to meet current demand on eBiblio, which has soared over 500%. Design of a program of activities to promote cultural consumption on the Net. Support all initiatives in the world of culture that seek to accompany citizens, who live these days confined in their homes, with recommendations of readings, concerts, performances of all kinds, audio visuals, music, debates, games, etc. through social networks and the Internet.



### Support cultural activities

Support the celebration of arguably the most important cultural day of the year in Catalonia, Sant Jordi. In agreement with all agents and sectors involved, it will be rescheduled whenever the pandemic allows.

## 13. Secretariat of Sports

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### Flexibilization of deadlines

Immediate measures regarding grants and their due justification: suspend deadlines (with no effect whatsoever on contract suspensions or terminations); provision of finance to beneficiaries needing it; any other measure to avoid damage for the beneficiaries derived from any other procedural aspect of grants. Adapt open calls for grants accordingly: to accelerate availability of resources independently from budgetary approval process; suspend deadlines for the submission of accompanying documents for those sports entities having received 80 percent or more of their operative grants; analyse and prepare new calls to support local councils and sports entities affected by COVID-19.

### Support Olympic athletes

Exceptional measures to support the postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games for the 530 competitors included in the high-performance programme, including extra 9 MEUR to guarantee its continuity during 2021.





## 14. Catalan Agency for Consumers

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### Information for consumers

Up to date information on what kind of commercial and leisure activities will remain closed and what kind of commercial activities and services will remain open, including the reduction of activities such as road transports, train transports, flights and inland water transport. [More information.](#)



### General advice

The Agency encourages consumers towards responsible and solidarity consumption, to plan shopping and strictly buy the necessary goods. The Agency also advises not to stock products.

# 15. Catalan Women's Institute

## Campaign against gender violence

Launching of specific campaign to facilitate access to a helpline for women unable to call for help or write to services due to being confined with the perpetrator. Permanent and forced cohabitation and reduced or null mobility can aggravate situations of violence. The permanent telephone service for women in situations of sexist violence has been strengthened and complemented with a WhatsApp chat with the aim of ensuring no woman is neglected during the confinement. [More information.](#)

**Serveis telefònics d'atenció a dones en situació de violència masclista i el seu entorn** #NoEstàsSola #JoActuo

Per a qualsevol consulta sobre violències masclistes pots trucar al **900 900 120**

Tambe pots contactar via Whatsapp **671 778 540**

O enviar un correu electrònic **900900120@gencat.cat**

Per a qualsevol emergència pots trucar al **112**

Generalitat de Catalunya Institut Català de les Dones

mosos d'esquadra

**900 900 120** Contra la violència masclista

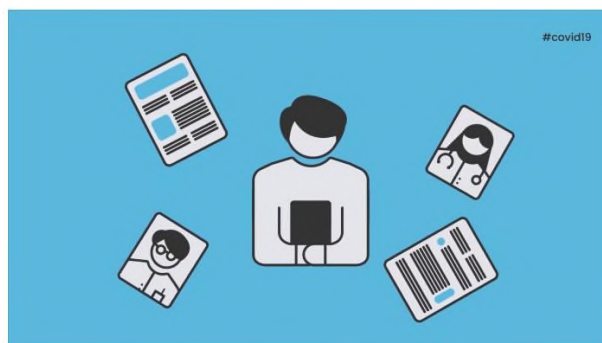


## 16. Catalan Audio-visual Council

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### Combating misinformation in social media

The Catalan Audio-visual Council (CAC) has published a report called '[Content on YouTube and social networks promoting claims to cure COVID-19](#)'. Scientifically validated by the Barcelona College of Physicians, the CAC report reveals claims from people posing as researchers or experts in the field of medicine and claiming to have found a cure for the pandemic. Following these findings, the CAC called on video-sharing platform YouTube to remove 16 these videos (with 340.000 views) promoting non-scientific treatments to cure COVID-19. YouTube deleted them on March 26. The CAC has also published some recommendations to spot fake news from trustworthy information ([available in Catalan in this link](#)). Some of the key recommendations include following official information only, using recognised media outlets, crosschecking news and refraining from sharing unverified text or audio messages.



\*This material is distributed by the Delegation of Catalonia to the United States of America on behalf of the Government of Catalonia. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

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